



ALBERTA REGISTERED MUSIC
TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

REPORTS

February 2026

Executive Reports

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Board Reports

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3. d) EXECUTIVE REPORTS

i. President's report

Since the AGM in October, I have fielded and answered numerous emails and phone calls which come from branch members, board reps, convenors and the CFMTA. I enjoyed attending the Band Summit Conference with AMEF and ARMTA being the groups participating this year. Although we did receive feedback in December of 2024 as to why members didn't attend the conference, and we tried to meet many of those concerns expressed, we only ended up with about 16 members attending this year after all. It is really quite a conundrum. We offered free, tasty lunches to members for the AGM and only 4 members from Red Deer attended, and it was in our own backyard. The committee works so hard to put a conference together. It's such a shame that more members chose not to attend. We need to brainstorm as to what else we should try for future professional development.

As president, I did two presidential visits in November, one to Lethbridge and one to Medicine Hat. I enjoyed meeting many of the teachers who attended and visiting with some of them over a meal afterwards or before. I visited Medicine Hat Branch in November and attended their first Canada Music Week Recital that they had put on, and then I encouraged about 12 members who attended the recital as to why they were an asset to the music community and to ARMTA. This branch is quite discouraged as few members do a lot of the work and planning and are burning out or else are becoming apathetic. I encouraged them to get involved and that they didn't need to meet numerous times throughout the year. This seemed to bring hope! I attended the Lethbridge business meeting and brought greetings and encouragement to them as well.

I look forward to attending the Edmonton Branch meeting in February and am going to Grande Prairie in April to visit them and to give a couple of workshops. Then I will have visited all of the ARMTA branches within my two-year term.

Since October, the inaugural Alberta Multi-Discipline Provincial Competition Committee has met on zoom monthly. I enjoy being part of the planning and hope the membership overall, will plan to submit some students in this wonderful competition(s) with an initial video audition, and then up to 9 (3 pianists, 3 vocalists and 3 string players), will compete for large money prizes at the Provincial Level and even larger prizes and opportunities to compete at the National level. We will get to send two candidates to compete in Nova Scotia in July 2027.

I was asked to update Alberta Alis Private Music Teacher description for their website which has to do with occupations in Alberta for students and adults looking for career choices.

Planning for the February board meeting and budget takes coordinating with Tamara and Rose. I look forward to voting with all of you on our ARMTA Service Award Candidate for 2026 at the February meeting and want to thank you all of you for your work and effort in the various tasks, events and programs that you help ARMTA with at both the local and provincial level. It would be wonderful if we could award more than one person each year.

A note of housekeeping: We need someone to take over Archives, and we will need a Vice President before October as Rose He will step into the President role then. Please keep your ears and eyes open for some members that you think would serve us well. They have two years to learn the ropes of ARMTA before becoming President. We usually alternate between Edmonton, Calgary and other branches. Therefore, our next Vice-president should technically be from the Edmonton branch. However, we welcome any other interested or talented members who would let their name stand.

Sincerely, *Annette Bradley*

ii. Vice-President's report

I enjoyed presenting Milestone Awards at the AGM and getting to meet our members at the Band Summit Conference. I'll be preparing for our board meeting in Feb with Tamara and Annette as I continue to learn the ropes and am ready to help where needed. I have also been thinking about our membership recruitment and have a few questions for the board.

Submitted by *Rose He*

iii. Past-President's report

I have been working to find convenors for a few roles since my last report.

We welcome the following convenors who have joined since September 2025.

- Piano Convenor - Leila Noonan

Thank you to Josina Leder-Sears for her wonderful service as our Canada Music Week Convenor. There are two roles that require convenors so think of where you'd like to serve.

- Archives
- Canada Music Week

We are also looking for a Vice-President to start in October.

It has been a pleasure being involved with ARMTA over the years. I look forward to continuing my service and chatting with you as I look to fill the convenorships. Thank you to all who are volunteering and giving of your time and talents to improve and strengthen ARMTA.

Respectfully submitted, *Rosemarie Horne*

iv. CFMTA report

There has been a lot of discussion and preparation going on across the nation to set guidelines and to make plans for the inaugural Multidiscipline National Competition in Wolfville, Nova Scotia in July 2027.

After nine years, treasurer Lois Kerr is stepping down from this position in July. We are looking for another treasurer to take on the role. Lois will help train the new treasurer for two months to help with the transition.

Thank you to our CFMTA President Marlaine Osgood (from Alberta), who leads and directs our national federation so capably.

The Canada Music Week poster competition and music compositions are gearing up for another season with deadlines being June 1, 2026. The student composer portion is adding the birthday month and year to the registration form as it has not been there for the past while which causes some glitches in awarding the winners.

There has been discussion about how all provinces should budget for and invest in getting Director's Insurance to ensure coverage in the event it is needed. ARMTA has Director's and Officers Insurance for our board.

The Connecting Canada Online Virtual PD Days for four weeks in July 2026 are being planned for the "off" conference year. Each week has a theme 1. Business, 2. Technique & Musicianship, 3. Pedagogy, 4. Technology. The full month is only \$80 (less 10% for CFMTA members) or \$25 per week. The call for proposals from possible clinicians ended Feb 2, 2026, with 20 proposals received.

Connect Canada Year-Round committee are seeking new ideas to increase engagement.

The Essay Competition is being sponsored by Personal Insurance donations for 2026-2027 for a total of \$1500/year), which is generous and supportive.

There were 22 Young Artists tours in 2024-25 across the country as the Provincial Competition Winners were showcased around their provinces and were given opportunities to perform ahead of the National Competition in Montreal this past July.

There are lots of photos and articles on our CFMTA photo website to see at <https://cfmta-fcapm.smugmug.com/>

CFMTA is in need of a new French translator for our meeting documents and national correspondence.

There is much more business and new business in discussion, however, the January 31, 2026, meeting did not meet quorum, so another meeting is being set which has been difficult to re-schedule. It is so important that all delegates and convenors set aside these special "meeting days" to avoid rescheduling people across the country or province. Just think of the time it would take to have our meetings in person, like pre-covid. Thank you to those who are reading this and plan to attend our Provincial Board meeting on February 28 all day.

Respectfully Submitted, *Annette Bradley*

v. Membership report

Since September 6th, 2025, we have had the following changes in our membership.

New Members September 5th, 2025 – February 8th, 2026

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REGISTERED SUBJECT</u>	<u>BRANCH JOINED</u>
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Wenona McCormick	Affiliate Grade 10	MAL
Kevin Wu	Violin	Calgary
Cari Astleford	Organ	MAL
Carlo Santos	Piano	Calgary
Michelle McCartney	Piano	Calgary
Steven Morton	Voice	Calgary
Henry Mokken	Piano	Edmonton

Reinstatements

Raydene Koch	Piano	Edmonton
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Transfers

Liz Tremblay	Transferred out to ORMTA
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Upgrades

none

Leave of Absence

There are currently 4 members on leave.

New Provincial Life Members

There are currently 12 provincial life members.

Pauline Ashley from Calgary passed away in November 2025.

Suspended

Allan Nelson from Edmonton was suspended.

Membership totals:

	Feb 8, 2018	Feb 15, 2019	Feb 14, 2020	Feb 13, 2021	Feb. 1, 2022	Feb. 11, 2023	Feb. 2, 2024	Jan. 18, 2025	Feb. 8, 2026
Full	414	416	421	421	417	411	417	418	415
Affiliate 10	18	22	24	25	23	25	23	20	23
Affiliate 9	8	8	15	11	12	14	16	13	13
Retired	14	15	17	21	25	24	20	18	21
Provincial Life	5	5	8	8	7	7	9	9	13
TOTAL	460	468	485	486	484	481	485	478	485

Branch membership totals:

	Feb 8, 2018	Feb 15, 2019	Feb 14, 2020	Feb 13, 2021	Feb. 1, 2022	Feb. 11, 2023	Feb. 2, 2024	Jan. 18, 2025	Feb. 8, 2026
Calgary	193	198	194	194	192	192	189	191	188
Edmonton	148	158	166	160	155	155	148	150	153
Lethbridge	27	25	24	24	23	23	27	29	29
Red Deer	18	20	23	24	22	22	21	18	18
Grande Prairie	4	7	9	11	13	11	12	14	14
Medicine Hat	8	9	11	11	16	16	19	17	17
MAL	62	51	59	63	64	63	70	60	66
TOTAL	460	468	486*	487*	485*	482*	486*	479*	485

*one member is part of both Edmonton and Red Deer Branches

NEW MEMBERS

When a new member joins, it can cost them up to \$355 to initially join. \$185 for provincial membership, \$25 application fee, plus branch membership fees up to \$65, and around \$80 to get a Vulnerable Sector Check if they don't already have one.

Calgary Branch recently added a discount code Calgaryfirstyear to have their first-year branch fees waived (save \$65)

Lethbridge Branch has a discount code Lethbridgehalfyear for new members to receive 50% off branch fees after October 1.

This is what our application says regarding partial year discounts.

By default, applications received January 15 – March 31 are pre-approved to begin membership effective April 1, the beginning of our membership year. Applications received September 15-30 are approved to begin membership on October 1, for which a \$50 discount for a half year membership is automatically applied. Half year memberships apply only to new members.

Submitted by Tamara Bowie

vi. Financial report

Over the past few years, ARMTA has expanded its programs and services, however, our primary source of revenue, membership fees, has not increased at the same rate. Because we accumulated extra funds after the pandemic and were mindful of the current economic climate, the board intentionally planned a shortfall in the budget for the past 5 years by choosing not to increase fees. The table below demonstrates how our portion of profits has not increased since 2014. The lowest our bank account balance was this year was just under \$14,000, which is in December before the new membership fees start coming in. At this point, we need to take action to ensure sustainable funding for the future.

To keep the comparison straightforward, the Earlybird discount was not factored in. Currently, 30% of our membership pays the regular rate of \$185.

ARMTA MEMBERSHIP FEES 2014-2026				
Year	Fees	Insurance	CFMTA	PROFIT
2014	130	30	26	74
2015	130	30	26	74
2016	130	30	26	74
2017	130	35	30	65
2018	135	35	30	70
2019	145	35	35	75
2020	150	40	37	73
2021	170	60	37	73
2022	170	60	37	73
2023	170	60	42	68
2024	170	60	42	68
2025	170	60	42	68
2026	170	55	42	73

My recommendation is that the board lets the GIC of \$12,817 (plus interest) mature on Feb. 27th and return to our operating account. We will still have two GIC's remaining that can be reinvested. I also recommend a membership fee increase. Below are a several options for consideration, and the board may choose the approach it feels is most appropriate.

Proposed Fee Increase

Note: Fee increases must be approved by the general membership at the AGM. Any approved increase would take effect in the 2027-2028 year, following a vote at the 2026 AGM in October.

Option 1: Increase fees by \$20 in 2027-2028. Assuming membership numbers remain the same, this would generate approximately \$9,200 in additional income.

Option 2: Increase fees by \$10 in 2027 and another \$10 in 2028 or 2029. This would increase income by \$4,600 per year assuming membership numbers remain the same.

Option 3: Decide the amount of income needed to continue funding the programs and services. Divide by 460 (number for full members) for easy estimation. Currently, there are 451 members who pay full price and 20 retired members pay half price.

Breakdown of Membership Fees

ARMTA's annual membership fees:

- Early-bird rate (before February 28): \$170
- Regular rate (after February 28): \$185

Portion of fees paid to insurance and CFMTA in the upcoming fiscal year

- **Insurance:** \$55 (Pay in April but no fees for members who join throughout the year)

- **CFMTA:** \$42 (Send fees to CFMTA for all members who join until year-end)

ARMTA Income: 95% of our income is from Membership Fees.

\$73 per member (Earlybird rate) (70% renew early)

\$88 per member (Regular rate) (30% pay full price)

GICs

ARMTA currently holds three GICs as of February 2026:

- **GIC 4** – Matures February 27, 2026.
Current balance: **\$12,817.14**, plus a minimum of **\$560** in interest (4.6% rate).
- **GIC 1** – **\$11,415**, maturing May 5, 2026.
- **GIC 5** – **\$14,004**, maturing May 26, 2026.

The current interest rate for new GICs is approximately **2.5%**.

There is some flexibility if the board chooses to approve a budget with a shortfall. Convenors are thoughtful and responsible in their spending, and it is often easier to budget on the higher side for approval purposes. Historically, our actual spending has consistently come in below the approved budget.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted by *Tamara Bowie*

Balance Sheet

As of February 2, 2026

	2 Feb 2026	2 Feb 2025	\$ Change
ASSETS			
ATB Chequing	28,977.91	43,386.47	-14,408.56
GIC	11,415.18	10,918.39	496.79
GIC 4	12,817.14	12,252.00	565.14
GIC 5	14,004.49	13,504.81	499.68
Stripe	3,997.70	3,368.10	629.60
Total Chequing/Savings	71,212.42	83,429.77	-12,217.35
Accounts Receivable			
Accounts Receivable	290.00	240.00	50.00
Total Accounts Receivable	290.00	240.00	50.00
Other Current Assets			
Undeposited Funds	597.50	385.00	212.50
Total Other Current Assets	597.50	385.00	212.50
Total Current Assets	72,099.92	84,054.77	-11,954.85
Fixed Assets			
Computer Equipment Cost	1,913.09	1,913.09	0.00
Computer Equipment Depreciation	-1,401.25	-1,401.25	0.00
Total Computer Equipment	511.84	511.84	0.00
Total Fixed Assets	511.84	511.84	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	72,611.76	84,566.61	-11,954.85
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Branch Fees Collected			
Calgary Branch	3,120.00	4,890.01	-1,770.01
Edmonton Branch	2,032.50	4,417.50	-2,385.00
Lethbridge Branch	140.00	122.50	17.50
Medicine Hat Branch	10.00	50.00	-40.00
Red Deer Branch	105.00	140.00	-35.00

	2 Feb 2026	2 Feb 2025	\$ Change
Total Branch Fees Collected	5,407.50	9,620.01	-4,212.51
CMT Magazine Print Subscription	70.00	105.00	-35.00
Deferred Income	16,447.50	15,310.00	1,137.50
Total Other Current Liabilities	21,925.00	25,035.01	-3,110.01
Total Current Liabilities	21,925.00	25,035.01	-3,110.01
Total Liabilities	21,925.00	25,035.01	-3,110.01
Equity			
Opening Bal Equity	31,913.31	31,913.31	0.00
Unrestricted Net Assets	23,357.62	26,009.45	-2,651.83
Net Income	-4,584.17	1,608.84	-6,193.01
Total Equity	50,686.76	59,531.60	-8,844.84
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	72,611.76	84,566.61	-11,954.85

Income and Expenses Budget vs. Actual

As of February 5, 2026

	1 Apr 2025 - 5 Feb 2026	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Income			
Advertising Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
Conference Income	66.76	2,235.00	-2,168.24
Donations			
Donations - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest Income	1,009.31	1,475.00	-465.69
Membership Income	81,485.00	81,000.00	485.00
Projects Income			
CFMTA Student Composer	140.00	1,100.00	-960.00
Piano Competition	0.00	0.00	0.00
String Competition	50.00	0.00	50.00
Vocal Competition	0.00	0.00	0.00
Website Hosting Income	325.00	400.00	-75.00
Projects Income - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Projects Income	515.00	1,500.00	-985.00
Sponsorship Income	1,725.00	1,900.00	-175.00
Total Income	84,801.07	88,110.00	-3,308.93
Expense			
Administration			
Administrator Contract	13,860.00	15,120.00	-1,260.00
Bank & Service Fees	401.41	1,900.00	-1,498.59
Cell Phone	347.35	450.00	-102.65
Computer Expenses	250.00	250.00	0.00

	<u>1 Apr 2025 - 5 Feb 2026</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
Mileage	280.60	300.00	-19.40
Office Supplies	883.30	950.00	-66.70
Rent	550.00	600.00	-50.00
Administration - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Administration	<u>16,572.66</u>	<u>19,570.00</u>	<u>-2,997.34</u>
Advertising & Publicity			
Social Media	3,450.00	4,300.00	-850.00
Advertising & Publicity - Other	789.86	1,650.00	-860.14
Total Advertising & Publicity	<u>4,239.86</u>	<u>5,950.00</u>	<u>-1,710.14</u>
Board Expenses			
AGM Expenses			
Hotels	378.76	1,440.00	-1,061.24
Meals	161.84	800.00	-638.16
Travel	1,281.98	2,950.00	-1,668.02
AGM Expenses - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total AGM Expenses	<u>1,822.58</u>	<u>5,190.00</u>	<u>-3,367.42</u>
Board Meetings Travel & Meals			
Catering	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hotels	0.00	0.00	0.00
Meals	330.00	780.00	-450.00
Travel	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Board Meetings Travel & Meals	<u>330.00</u>	<u>780.00</u>	<u>-450.00</u>
Conferencing	239.09	250.00	-10.91
Directors Insurance	1,210.00	1,210.00	0.00
Meeting Room Rental	0.00	0.00	0.00
Board Expenses - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Board Expenses	<u>3,601.67</u>	<u>7,430.00</u>	<u>-3,828.33</u>
Member services			
CFMTA Delegate Expenses	2,563.45	2,300.00	263.45
CFMTA Dues	20,615.00	20,000.00	615.00
Conference/AGM			
Catering			
Catering - Other	723.82	1,200.00	-476.18
Total Catering	<u>723.82</u>	<u>1,200.00</u>	<u>-476.18</u>
Conference Registrations	0.00	250.00	-250.00
Printing, Postage, and	29.04	100.00	-70.96
Sessions & Seminars			
Clinician Travel	53.52	372.00	-318.48
Session	775.27	800.00	-24.73
Sessions &	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00
Total Sessions & Conference/AGM -	<u>828.79</u>	<u>3,172.00</u>	<u>-2,343.21</u>
Total Conference/AGM	<u>1,581.65</u>	<u>4,722.00</u>	<u>-3,140.35</u>
Directory			
Directory Postage	267.33	350.00	-82.67
Directory Printing	176.43	300.00	-123.57
Directory - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Directory	<u>443.76</u>	<u>650.00</u>	<u>-206.24</u>
Honoraria & Gifts	1,008.81	700.00	308.81
Insurance			
Insurance - Other	24,780.00	25,000.00	-220.00
Total Insurance	<u>24,780.00</u>	<u>25,000.00</u>	<u>-220.00</u>
Membership Renewals			
Membership Renewals	82.22	400.00	-317.78

	<u>1 Apr 2025 - 5 Feb 2026</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>
Membership Renewals -	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Membership Renewals	82.22	400.00	-317.78
Tempo			
Editor Honorarium	900.00	900.00	0.00
Postage	425.25	400.00	25.25
Printing	545.99	550.00	-4.01
Tempo - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Tempo	1,871.24	1,850.00	21.24
Website and Database			
Webmaster Contract	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
Website Hosting	1,350.83	1,600.00	-249.17
Website and Database -	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Website and Database	2,850.83	3,100.00	-249.17
Member services - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Member services	55,796.96	58,722.00	-2,925.04
Partnerships			
CASSA Musical Arts	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Partnerships - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Partnerships	0.00	500.00	-500.00
President's Expenses			
CFMTA President Visit	0.00	0.00	0.00
General	55.65	150.00	-94.35
President's Expenses at CFMTA	0.00	0.00	0.00
Visits to Branches	1,110.20	2,455.00	-1,344.80
President's Expenses - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total President's Expenses	1,165.85	2,605.00	-1,439.15
Projects			
ARMTA Recognition Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00
Collegiate Chapters	75.00	75.00	0.00
Community Service Certificates	0.00	25.00	-25.00
Continuing Ed./Travelling	1,995.00	3,800.00	-1,805.00
Piano Competition	1,654.20	1,500.00	154.20
Recognition Fund Postage	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Strings Competition	922.50	800.00	122.50
Student Composer Competition	2,036.52	2,000.00	36.52
Vocal Competition	0.00	0.00	0.00
Projects - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Projects	6,783.22	8,400.00	-1,616.78
Scholarships			
Alberta Music Festival Assoc.	500.00	500.00	0.00
Canada West Performing Arts	500.00	500.00	0.00
Continuing Education	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00
Scholarships - CFMTA	1,200.00	2,000.00	-800.00
Total Scholarships	4,700.00	5,500.00	-800.00
Total Expense	92,860.22	108,677.00	-15,816.78
Net Income	-8,059.15	-20,567.00	12,507.85

vii. Administrator's report

Since our last meeting in September, we held the AGM and Conference in Red Deer in October. The location for lunch and the AGM was ABC Restaurant, and they had a meeting room that fit our needs well. The food was good and the cost was considerably less than catering we have had in the past.

At the request of Edmonton Branch, I have been in contact with Westland insurance regarding our Directors and Officers Policy. ARMTA Provincial's policy period is Dec 20 '25 to Dec 20 '28 and we pay \$1210 annually. I inquired if Edmonton Branch could be added on as a subsidiary to our policy. Here was their response after submitting their application.

Email from Kylie Bruce on January 15th, 2026

Good morning, Tamara,

The Traveler's underwriter has just advised the local Edmonton branch can be added to your existing policy for an additional \$200 annual premium.

Underwriting needs the legal name for the branch to add and your consent to proceed with the change.

If other branches would also like to apply to be added onto our policy for a similar amount, let me know and we can work on the approval process. Branches would be responsible for paying the \$200.

Our office printer, which has served reliably since 2013, stopped working in early January. Fortunately, I had enough budget left in the administrator's office supplies to purchase a new one. It is a Canon G4280 and this model uses updated tank-based ink technology, allowing us to refill ink for approximately \$21 instead of purchasing \$85 cartridges. In the long run, this will save money for office supplies, and I have reduced my requested budget to reflect that.

ARMTA is run mostly by volunteers, and I appreciate the hard work and focus of the convenors, branch representatives, and the executive. I'm happy to assist, answer questions, and co-ordinate when needed.

Some programs have really grown lately, due to diligent volunteers. They put in a significant amount of time behind the scenes, and I want to thank them for their time. We have many volunteers, and even if you were not mentioned by name, please know that your contributions are valued. ARMTA could not offer its programs without each one of you.

Publicity and Social Media: Susan Henley is creating Creative Briefs for every ARMTA program. These are templates that can be used annually to support social media campaigns, newsletters, and email promotions. She spends a lot of time thinking about promoting ARMTA to the public and I appreciate the work she has done to create a consistent recognizable brand. Karen Gerelus designs posts and is also creative and consistent. I appreciate using her designs in emails and newsletters.

Our competitions: Nathene Arthur and the committee are working on the Multidiscipline Competition that is all new territory. The Junior Strings Competition is a new concept that was well received. The Student Composer competition, which was run by Christine Rogers for a very long time and is thriving because of her organization and attention to detail. I'm excited that Danae Turgeon is willing to take on the Composer competition.

Our President, Annette, has been working hard to support branches and visit them in person. The Webmaster, Carolyn Garritano, is essential to the operations of ARMTA. Recently, I realized that any of my emails sent to members with a shaw.ca email was not going through. She figured

it out and has fixed the problem. She is always there and happy to help when there is a problem with our membership program or website or anything technical.

Our ARMTA Recognition Fund convenor, Lorrie Wittke, is passionate about her work in helping underprivileged students. She spends countless hours working on record keeping, sending cheques, and chairing the Bursary Committee.

For the February Board meeting, I'm going to use Zoom's built-in AI Companion. It will automatically generate meeting summaries and action items. I will review and edit the summary afterwards to see how it goes. Board members will be asked to consent to the use of AI features when they join the meeting.

THANK YOU'S

Re: Milestone Awards

Please pass along my thanks to the team who takes the time to recognize teaching milestones. These recognitions take effort and resources, and I really appreciated receiving my certificate and the letter congratulating me for ten years of registered music teaching in Alberta.

May the new year bring the joy of music to us all,
Naomi Williams
Calgary, AB

Hours worked by Tamara Bowie, administrator

MONTH	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
January		79.33	44.50	43.25	53.42	45.58
February		77.42	65.00	63.17	55.17	
March		62.17	48.00	37.75	36.75	
April		74.00	37.83	39.25	40.00	
May		43.42	22.25	31.25	23.00	
June		33.00	33.58	35.00	38.00	
July	51.55	43.17	27.75	33.33	47.33	
August	75.05	39.92	38.50	48.25	33.33	
September	58.50	47.67	52.58	44.25	65.50	
October	45.05	51.17	44.00	66.50	60.17	
November	32.45	20.08	24.42	28.00	20.17	
December	31.10	29.50	29.67	28.50	26.42	
Average/month	48.95	50.07	39.01	41.54	41.61	
Total	293.70	600.85	468.08	498.50	499.26	

Submitted by *Tamara Bowie*

3. e) CONVENOR REPORTS

i. Archives

Vacant

ii. Bursary

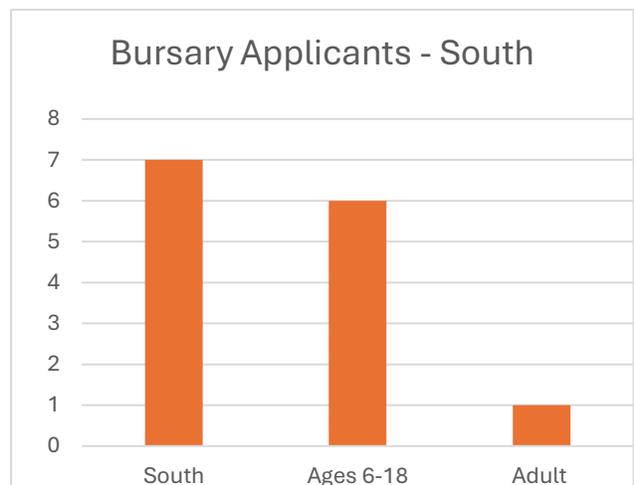
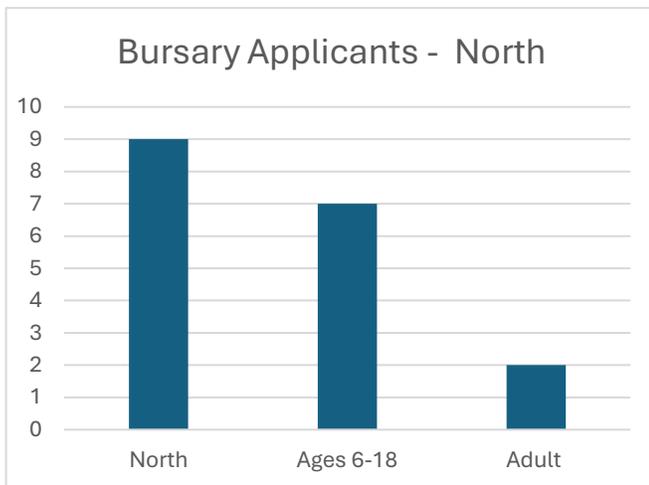
Bursary Committee Report
February 8, 2026

Since April of 2025 the Bursary committee has given out 16 Needs based bursaries for a total of \$13,300.00 and 1 Newcomer Bursary for a total of \$1000.

The committee has been able to give out larger bursaries which is more beneficial in meeting the costs of a music education. At the discretion of the Bursary Committee, students have received bursaries between \$300 and \$1000.

In September of 2025, the Board approved an additional \$2000 for Needs Based Bursaries due to the high number of applications that the committee have been receiving.

Please see the tables below, which give additional information regarding needs-based bursary applications. The North consists of Grande Prairie, Edmonton, and Red Deer. The South consists of Calgary, Lethbridge, and Red Deer.



Prepared by *Lorrie Wittke*

ii. Bylaws/Policies and Procedures

At the September 2025 meeting, the board didn't discuss the Policies and Procedures for High School Clubs or review the programs the Collegiate Chapter members are eligible for.

High School Clubs

The draft Policies and Procedure used the same relationship points as the Collegiate Chapters. These points should be discussed individually as to their relevance to a High School club and acceptance by ARMTA members. With the Collegiate Chapters, the Faculty Advisor needs to be an ARMTA member and can be named as the ARMTA teacher when Collegiate Chapter members apply for the programs. The High School clubs don't require an ARMTA member as an advisor or leader, other than the convenor.

From the draft High School Clubs P and P:

HIGH SCHOOL CLUBS RELATIONSHIP WITH ARMTA

1. The Alberta Registered Music Teachers Association has a mentorship relationship with High School Clubs. Members of the student group and its executives are not members of ARMTA. As such, there are:

- i. no membership fees*
- ii. no police check requirements*
- iii. no use of the Registered Music Teacher designation*
- iv. no benefits from CFMTA including liability insurance*

For discussion: ARMTA members need to be 18 years or older. (Bylaws III (A)) Are these points relative to the High School Club?

2. As part of the High School Clubs, students are eligible to:

- i. enter the Student Composer Competition*
- ii. enter the Provincial Piano, Voice, and String competitions, and be recommended to represent Alberta in the CFMTA competitions*
- iii. apply for the ARMTA Music Pedagogy Scholarship*
- iv. apply for the ARMTA Bursary*
- v. enter their students in competitions (including the ARMTA Student Composer Competition), recitals, awards*
- vi. apply and hold other convenorships in their local ARMTA branch and as a provincial ARMTA convenor, if they are successfully selected.*

For discussion:

The board needs to consider the implications of two programs, the Student Composer Competition and Provincial Multidiscipline Competition, being opened up to students of non-ARMTA members while at the same time balancing a welcoming mentorship relationship with members of the High School club.

i. Student Composer Competition

The winner of the Student Composer Competition is sent to the CFMTA Student Composer Competition where the teacher needs to be a CFMTA member. The CFMTA won't accept a competitor who isn't taught by a CFMTA member even if ARMTA accepts the student.

For discussion:

- a. From the proposed Policies and Procedure - The mandate of the High School Student Network Convenor is to establish and promote Alberta Registered Music Teachers' Association (thereby referred to as ARMTA) clubs in high schools across Alberta with music programs.*

The purpose is to empower high school aged musicians to enrich their communities through music and philanthropy, while increasing community awareness of ARMETA in the local music scene.

The convenor will be the main ARMETA liaison for the high school ARMETA clubs once established and oversee an annual review of the club to ensure the following objectives are met.

- a. Organize and promote a local teaching opportunity and/or music mentoring for students of underprivileged elementary schools.*
- b. Plan and execute a community performance event each year to showcase student talent and engage local audiences.*
- c. Coordinate a fundraiser each year in support of ARMETA and club activities.*
- d. Clubs will operate in alignment with ARMETA's mission and values, and submit an annual report of their activities and finances to ARMETA administrator.*

Does making the High School Club members eligible to submitting compositions into the Student Composer Competition fit into the purpose, mandate, and objectives of the High School club?

Can we support the Club in different ways to meet their mandate, purpose, objectives, and provide mentorship?

- b. ARMETA wants to encourage private music teachers to join ARMETA. If the board decides to accept applications from High School Club members, who may not have an ARMETA teacher, we lose a way to encourage/invite the private music teacher to become an ARMETA member.
 - c. How will accepting applications from students of non-ARMETA members affect ARMETA members and the benefits of membership?
 - d. If the board agrees that they are willing to accept applications for this program, where the teachers are not ARMETA members, there are some options:
 - If a High School club member wins, the competitor who placed second place is sent to the CFMTA.
 - The High School club competitor is only eligible for adjudication.
- ii. Provincial Piano, Voice, and String competitions, and be recommended to represent Alberta in the CFMTA competitions.

The winner is sent to the CFMTA National competition where the winner will not be accepted if the teacher is not a CFMTA members.

For discussion:

- a. Does this fit the mandate, purpose, and objectives of the High School club? Can we support the Club in different ways to meet their mandate, purpose, objectives, and provide mentorship?

The board needs to consider the implications of this, not only with respect to ARMETA teacher's benefits, but also to encourage private music teachers to join ARMETA.

- b. We could accept High School club students who do not study with an ARMETA teacher to enter the Provincial competition? Strings run a junior competition open to all strings instructors. Piano and voice could do the same.

Collegiate Chapters

From the current Policies and Procedures:

COLLEGIATE CHAPTER RELATIONSHIP WITH ARMTA

1. The Alberta Registered Music Teachers Association has a mentorship relationship with Collegiate

Chapters. Members of the student group are not members of ARMTA. As such, there are:

- i. no membership fees
- ii. no police check requirements
- iii. no use of the Registered Music Teacher designation
- iv. no benefits from CFMTA including liability insurance

2. As part of the Collegiate Chapters, students are eligible to:

ARMTA Provincial Board Policies and Procedures February 2025 Page 41 of 70

- i. enter the Student Composer Competition
- ii. enter the Provincial Piano, Voice, and String competitions, and be recommended to represent Alberta in the CFMTA competitions
- iii. apply for the ARMTA Music Pedagogy Scholarship
- iv. apply for the ARMTA Bursary
- v. enter their students in competitions (including the ARMTA Student Composer Competition), recitals, awards

3. Collegiate Chapters and the ARMTA Board:

One Collegiate Chapter member (or advisor) is invited to attend the provincial board meetings. When there is more than one Collegiate Chapter, the opportunity to attend provincial board meetings will rotate among the chapters. There are no voting rights.

Discussion: Revisit the benefits for Collegiate Chapter members, specifically:

1. Student Composer Competition - only CFMTA members can send their students on to the National Competition.

Item v. includes students of Collegiate Chapter members. We could add that, if a Collegiate Chapter member's student wins first place provincially, they need to be aware that ARMTA will send the second-place winner to the Nationals or they are only eligible for adjudication.

2. National Multidiscipline Competition - a CFMTA member will need to be the instructor.

With the Collegiate Chapters, the Faculty Advisor needs to be an ARMTA/CFMTA member and can be named as the ARMTA teacher when Collegiate Chapter members apply for the competitions, as they do with the other programs such as scholarships. If Collegiate Chapter members name the faculty advisor as their teacher when applying for competitions, and the actual non-ARMTA teacher agrees, we lose the opportunity to invite the non-ARMTA member to become an ARMTA member.

Respectfully submitted by *Marlaine Osgood*

iv. Canada Music Week

Alberta Celebrates Canada Music Week 2025: Celebrating Canadian Voices and Legacies

Canada Music Week 2025 unfolded across Alberta with vibrant celebrations that highlighted Canadian artistry, honoured musical legacies, and showcased the achievements of students and educators alike.

Calgary hosted ARCHERFEST 2025—a two-day event commemorating composer Violet Archer, the 45th anniversary of the Canadian Music Centre (CMC) Prairie Region, and the inaugural Violet Archer Lifetime Achievement Awards. Hosted at Calgary's National Music Centre, ARCHERFEST offered engaging, family-friendly programming. On November 22, author Léa Ploudre-Archer, Violet Archer's grandniece, presented her illustrated children's book on Archer, accompanied by live performances of Archer's piano music by ARMTA Calgary Chair Sandra Joy Friesen. A composer-in-residence session followed, featuring six Prairie composers whose works were workshopped and performed by members of the Kensington Sinfonia. The celebration continued on November 23 with *In Violet Light*, a recital showcasing Archer's piano works performed by Sandra Joy Friesen, paired with evocative songs by Archer and Jean Coulthard sung by mezzo-soprano Camryn Dewar. The presence of Archer's relatives made the event especially meaningful. Calgary also hosted a Contemporary Showcase festival from November 20-22.

In Lethbridge, the ARMTA Branch held its Canada Music Week recital on November 22 at Casa, where 18 students performed pieces by a diverse range of Canadian composers—including Christine Donkin, John Burge, Rebekah Maxner, and Alexina Louie. Guest pianist Brad Parker offered a highlight performance of Lavinia Kell Parker's *Frozen Fractals* for prepared piano. The recital concluded with recognition of 45 student exam award recipients, with nearly \$2,500 distributed for outstanding practical and theory results. Six students earned ARMTA Recognition Fund Student Awards for achieving First-Class Honours in both areas. The Branch also honoured the memory of beloved teacher Doreen Laing through dedicated piano awards, funded by the sale of her donated music. Additionally, longtime member Marilyn Sinclair was presented with an ARMTA Honorary Life Membership for over 50 years of service. As part of the CFMTA Branching Out Initiative, 80 lbs of food was collected for the local food bank.

Various other centres across the province hosted other Canada Music Week events, including a teacher-organized concert and gallery in Medicine Hat, and a Contemporary Showcase festival celebrating Canadian composers with a special feature on Alexina Louie, George Andrix, and David Duke in Edmonton from November 21-23.

Together, these events underscored the enduring vibrancy of Canadian music and the educators who champion it.

Submitted by *Josina Leder-Sears*

v. Collegiate Chapters

University of Alberta - other members involved - Viktoria Reiswich-Dapp

The U of A Collegiate Chapter's Peer Music Teaching Program had a positive response to the point that there were more peer student registrations than peer teachers available. Some changes were made:

1. Recruitment coordinator – This is a new executive position to assist with the Chapter's other initiative.
Specialized directors were added to the Peer Music Teaching Program (see Summary of the Program Updates for ARMTA document for details on these positions) -

Observation Confirmation & Matching Coordination
Lesson and Practice Room Booking Coordination
Recruitment Coordination
2. Flexible payment model (peer teachers paid by peer students) – Addressed the issue of more peer students than peer teachers, and concerns raised by the graduate music advisor of unpaid volunteers (see Summary of the Program Updates for ARMTA document).
3. Soundscapes partnership – Chapter executives partnered with Soundscapes (another U of A registered music club focusing on music education and appreciation for non-music program students) on the Peer Music Teaching Program to distribute the workload and expand the reach of the Chapter.

The following ARMTA teachers offered observation sessions:

Etelka Nyilasi - 1 session
Heather Hindman - 2 sessions
Marek Orszulik - 2 sessions
Viktoria Reischwich-Dapp - 1 session

No peer teachers have taken advantage of the optional mentorship opportunity yet.

For a full list of Observation teachers, please see Observation Teacher Roster.

For a detailed report on the Peer Music Teaching Program, please see the Summary of Program Updates for ARMTA document.

University of Calgary – other members involved - Jani Parsons

In the fall, Jani Parsons polled the U of C music students to gauge their interest in starting a Collegiate Chapter at the U of C. Although there was initial interest, nothing has been initiated. Jani will continue to mention the Collegiate Chapter to students on a yearly basis.

Collegiate Chapters – respectfully submitted by Marlane Osgood and Angelina Lee

See Appendix :Summary of the Peer Music Teaching Program Updates for ARMTA - December 30, 2025

vi. Community Service Award

As of February 1st, 2026, I have received no applications for the Community Service Award. Early last fall, I contacted all the branches of ARMTA and requested that they include information about the award on their individual websites (with a link to the information page on the ARMTA Provincial website). Thanks to Edmonton, Lethbridge, and Grand Prairie for adding the link to their individual websites.

I had a busier than usual Fall in 2025 and hope to do more to inform teachers and families about this award in future months. Thanks to Karen Gerelus for promoting the award on ARMTA social media platforms, and to Rose He for her work on preparing a letter for teachers to present to places in the community who might like to have student performances.

Submitted by Rhonda MacEachen

vii. Conference

Alberta Band Summit

This year, ARMTA and Alberta Music Education Foundation (AMEF) joined with the Alberta Band Association (ABA) to hold a one-day conference in Red Deer at the Red Deer Polytechnic, October 25, 2026.

This was the first year ABA ran the conference and their Executive Director, Nathan Oulette did an excellent job. He was open about communication and expectations from the beginning. Even though there was an Alberta teacher's strike during the month of October, there were approximately 80 attendees. ABA did not ask for financial backing from AMEF and ARMTA. They only required us to co-ordinate and pay for our 4 sessions.

Sessions co-sponsored by ARMTA and (AMEF):

The Feldenkrais Method for Musicians: An Approach to Learning Through Movement
Presenter - Jennifer Herzog.

Profound Pianistic Performance: An engaging reading session, taken from Lists C or D in the RCM 2022 piano edition for Levels 3 through 9
Presenter - Linda Kundert.

Dynamic Piano Masterclass: This masterclass will focus on several students performing music from Lists C or D in the RCM 2022 piano edition for Levels 3 through 9
Presenter - Linda Kundert.

We Can Do This: How to Be a Mentor, Facilitator, and Collaborator in Today's Evolving Music Studio Environment
Presenter - Merlin Thompson.

16 ARMTA members attended the conference.

Respectfully submitted by *Marlaine Osgood and Tamara Bowie*

viii. Continuing Education

Approved CE Funding Applications for Projects, to date since April 2025

CALGARY

Masterclass and Teaching Presentation by John Burge

Sunday February 22, 2026, 1:30-4:30

Summit View United Church, Calgary

Funding amount \$795

The Calgary Branch has invited the well-known Canadian composer and teacher John Burge to give a two-part event in Calgary on Sunday afternoon February 22, 2026.

Part 1: He will give our students a Masterclass on performances of his works.

Part 2: He will present his approach to teaching through a lecture-demonstration "Piano Teaching Tricks I Have Learned Over the Years" for our teachers, leaving time for a Q and A session afterwards.

John Burge has a long-standing reputation as a wonderfully creative, energetic and passionate teacher. As a composer, he has a unique perspective on teaching all aspects of the repertoire – technical, theoretical, and artistic. We are confident that his ideas and approach will benefit all who attend, our teachers and our students.

We have extended the invitation to this event to other teaching groups around the city, such as APTA, MRC, NATS, UofC for an attendance fee of \$30 if they are not ARMTA Calgary Branch members.

EVENT BUDGET

Clinician fee: \$500

Venue rental fee \$195

Catering fee \$100

The funds received will go directly to John's fee. Our Branch is grateful for the generous support of the Provincial Board, thank you!!

RED DEER

Mother's Day Tea Concert (May 2026)

Venue Rental -- \$700

We are planning a three-hour event with tables all centred around a grand piano. The venue is the largest expense. \$700.

We're discussing decorations and giving roses to the mothers, grandmothers, etc. who will be attending to support the students as well as an assortment of savory and sweet snacks.

Because we have so many students we will probably have assigned time slots for each teacher like we did with our Jazz Cafe last year.

We're very excited about this and are looking for provincial financial support.

LETHBRIDGE

Keys to Piano Workshop (March 6-7, 2026)

Funding Amount: Fee for one of two clinicians -- \$650

The University of Lethbridge Conservatory of Music in collaboration with the Lethbridge Branch of the Alberta Registered Music Teachers' Association is hosting Keys to Piano, a piano workshop taking place Saturday, March 6-7, 2026 at Casa in Lethbridge. A Friday evening session for teachers featuring a presentation by the clinicians is open to all teachers in our community. Activities for students and teachers on Saturday include masterclasses, lunch, clinician recital and extra sessions such as drumming/percussion, fiddling, and harpsichord. The clinicians are Kathy Dornian and Dr. Christopher Kayler.

Report respectfully submitted by Deanna Oye, ARMTA Continuing Education Convenor

ix. Examining Board

EXAMINING BOARD REPORT - SEPTEMBER - JANUARY 2026

Board Members: Roger Admiral, Twila Baker, Ruston Vuori, Bronwyn Schumann, LaDona Ahenda

APPLICANTS ACCEPTED

Full membership:

- Voice.....1
- Piano.....3
- Violin.....1
- Organ.....1
- Affiliate Member ...1

We have experienced a low number of applicants in the recent months compared to other similar time periods.

No issues for discussion have come up in the past few months. Most applications have been straightforward. BA and BEd applicants still require some discussion and requests for additional materials to support their application.

Respectfully Submitted, Judith Elliott
Examining Board Chair

x. Festival Association Liaison

Request the Alberta Music Festival Association Scholarship funding of \$500 be renewed for 2026.

The two classes funded in 2025 were:

1. Violin/Viola - Age 15 years and under - \$250 Award
2. Piano - Age 15 years and under - \$250 Award

Request the Canada West Performing Arts Festival Scholarship funding of \$500 be renewed for the 2026 CWPAF and increased by an additional \$800 as Alberta is once again hosting the Canada West Performing Arts Festival at Allard Hall, MacEwan University, in Edmonton July 24th and 25th. It would be wonderful if ARMTA could sponsor two scholarships at both the AMFA Provincial Festival and the Canada West Performing Arts Festival this year as many of our young Alberta musicians will be participating in the CWPAF representing Alberta

The Awards for the 2026 CWPAF are as follows.

13 and Under Classes: 1st Place \$800
17 and Under Classes: 1st Place \$1000
22 and Under Classes: 1st Place \$2000
Choral Classes: 1st Place \$500

Respectfully submitted by *Carolyn Steeves*

xi. High School Student Network

I'm grateful for this position that was created at our AGM. Materials to explain the ARMTA High School Clubs specific to music teachers and students have been created and I have been in touch with those interested. Currently the focus is on recruitment, and I anticipate further outreach to schools to increase awareness and potential collaboration in the coming months.

Submitted by *Rose He*

xii. Members at Large

xiii. Multidiscipline Competition 2027

COMMITTEE MEMBERS (Alphabetical Order): Nathene Arthur, Annette Bradley, Chrysanthema Nikol, Leila Noonan, Marlaine Osgood, Rita Thurn

1. Background:

This new ARMTA Committee was created in October of 2025. The six members represent three convenors: Leila Noonan (piano convenor), Rita Thurn (voice convenor), Chrysanthema Nikol (strings convenor), Annette Bradley (ARMTA Provincial), Marlaine Osgood (CFMTA) and Nathene Arthur (Committee Convenor). The purpose of this committee is to decide the parameters, timelines, budgets and business of the inaugural ARMTA Multidiscipline Competition in preparation for sending two Alberta student representatives to CFMTA Nationals in July 2027.

2. Report:

Since our first Committee Zoom meeting on October 3, 2025, we have had six zoom meetings. Nathene agreed to serve as Committee Convenor, as she has been on the CFMTA 2023 National Voice Competition Committee, and has helped with the ARMTA Provincial Voice and ARMTA Provincial Strings Competitions in the past. Our committee consulted the CFMTA application requirements, wrote up our Alberta competition rules and timelines, and developed two

documents (“Judging Rubrics” and “Adjudicator Instructions”) with detailed information for our competition day.

Our basic timelines include a 1st Round Video registration opening November 1, 2026 and closing December 31, 2026, all students will be notified by January 15, 2027, and the final round competition will be held in Red Deer mid-February 2027. The first-round video will be a maximum of 15 minutes long in one seamless recording. The actual day-of timeline is also worked out to include the top three competitors in each of the three disciplines (piano, voice, strings). Our convenors are looking for Judges, and we have prepared a budget for ARMTA to discuss and approve.

We look forward to working with social media and Publicity once the budget is approved and our competition location and date are confirmed. We have contacted the ARMTA Recognition Fund Convenor with our request for prize amounts for 1st, 2nd, 3rd placements, and “ARMTA Best Canadian Performance” awards for the final round in the amounts of \$2,000, \$1,000, \$750 and \$500, respectively, totaling \$4,250. We are also seeking donors for further private/business “special awards”.

3. 2026-2027 AMDC Budget Proposal:

INCOME: \$6,540

1 Entry Fees estimated from 1st Round video entries \$540 (\$30x18)

2 ARMTA Provincial Budget: \$6,000

EXPENSES. \$6,440

1. Venue: \$600

2. 1st Round Video Judges: \$540 (\$30 each x estimated 18 entries)

3. Final Round In Person Judges daily rate: \$1,350. (\$450 x 3)

4. Judges’ Expenses: \$2,400. (\$800x3) food, travel, hotel

5. Supplies: \$100. (Colour program etc)

6. Mileage/food/hotel for 3 convenors: \$900. (3x\$300) Leila, Chrysanthema and Rita.

7. Mileage/food for AMDC Chair (Nathene), Annette (current Provincial President), and Marlaine Osgood (CFMTA rep): \$300 total. No need for hotel, as Chez Bradley has welcomed us overnight before the competition. Thanks Annette!

8. Piano Tuning: \$200 (if needed)

9. Cards for Judges: \$50

TOTAL: \$6,440

This is a great committee, and everyone brings their skillsets and positive attitude to each zoom meeting. We look forward to securing a location, setting the in-person competition date, and begin publicity within the next six weeks for this inaugural Provincial ARMTA Competition.

Submitted by,
Nathene Arthur, AMDC Committee Convenor
January 24, 2026

xiv. Piano Competition

xv. Publicity

Content summary:

1. Coordinating ARMTA promotions
2. Surveying newer ARMTA members for promotional purposes to learn as much as possible about teacher studio demographics and teacher priorities.
3. tracking uptake in ARMTA programs

For Board Agenda:

- Recommendation to include a survey in membership applications

Appendix:

- Summary of 2016 and 2025 member surveys
 - Raw data available
-

1.Coordinating ARMTA promotions:

- Supplying Social Media and Admin with comprehensive creative briefs for promotional use e.g.: Student Composer Competition, Scholarships and Bursaries, Tempo Magazine etc.
- liasoning with program convenors as appropriate

Specific promotions typically originate either with me or with Social Media. I prepare an annual creative brief for every ARMTA program or event. Each brief is a roadmap for executing a specific promotion. Each contains a high level overview of the subject, skeleton perspective if necessary for promotion, projected budget for promotional communications.

The brief includes a promotional calendar for each platform that will be used (social media, ARMTA newsletters, direct emails to members).

Completed briefs are then shared with Social Media, ARMTA Admin, and program convenors as appropriate.

2.Surveying Newer Members:

In spring 2025 I partnered with the ARMTA Administrator to survey members who have joined during the past 5 years. Most of that period was prior to the appointment of the ARMTA Social Media Convenor:

It is necessary to understand what prompts teachers to join and remain ARMTA members, what programs they value, and how they prefer to be informed about ARMTA activities (they like email best). We need to know what instruments and genres they teach (registered and unregistered), and the demographics of their studio populations such as student ages and level of proficiency.

2025 survey:

Responses indicated that most respondents joined and continue to hold membership in order to benefit their own businesses with liability insurance, studio promotion, registered music teacher designation and professional development.

None of them (ZERO) joined or renewed their membership because they wanted opportunities for their students.

In general, respondent ratings of the importance of specific ARMTA programs were parallel to their reasons for joining. Liability insurance was rated very important, by a large margin (89%), followed by studio promotion and the registered music teacher designation, (39% each), and then professional development (33%). Student opportunities were rated as very important by 17% of respondents.

Comparison with 2016 Survey:

Over the past 9 years, there has been a shift in the primary reasons for joining ARMTA and the perceived importance of specific ARMTA programs.

- In 2016, the top two ARMTA advantages that attracted and retained members: The RMT designation and the professional liability insurance (79.5% and 71.8% respectively).
- Tied for 3rd most valued advantages: publication in the find a teacher directory, and the opportunity to get to know other music teachers (51.3% each)
- 4th place: resources to enhance music education, for teachers and students (48.7%)
- 5th place: teachers felt joining ARMTA was just something they should do (43.6%)

2025 Studio demographics:

72% of respondents teach all age groups.

80% of voice teachers teach musical theatre

67% teach several genres in addition to classical music

28% teach classical music exclusively

Student experience levels taught:

- 100% of respondents teach beginners
- 78% also teach intermediate
- 56% accept advanced students
- 22% operate studios consisting of 100% beginners.

Action to date:

Changes resulting from new information have positively impacted the effectiveness of promotional activity.

For example, 2025 survey respondents placed value on direct email communications for highlighting specific programs and events, so ARMTA Administration is echoing social media material with single-subject emails to highlight whatever is being promoted. This two pronged communication approach has been effective so far, with significant response to the Website hosting program operated by the ARMTA Webmaster, and Tempo magazine readership.

The responses to the 2025 survey reflect program awareness or lack of it - eg: the significant benefit to studio bottom line through the website mentoring offered by the ARMTA Webmaster,

and the significant member web hosting discount ARMTA offers, are programs that might receive higher ratings if more teachers understood how accessible these programs are and how much money members can save by participating. There has been a subsequent awareness campaign on web hosting, the results of which support this assumption.

Year-over-year program uptake

Senior competitions, including national qualifiers for piano or voice, have consistently received 2-4 entries over the past 5 years.

The inaugural Junior strings competition received 11 entries.

Student Composer competition has routinely received between 40 and 51 entries, mostly in the youth categories according to the Convenors.

In parallel with ARMTA teacher studio demographics, youth programs are most successful, in regard to the number of applications. In addition to social media exposure, dedicated email correspondence to members may also increase program uptake if the results of direct emails carries over to competitions.

Recommendations:

All promotions benefit from early (very early) information transfer from convenors or committees directly to Publicity.

We don't need all the information in order to begin a promotion. Please do not wait until you've crossed all the t's and dotted all the i's before contacting Publicity. It is best to begin awareness campaigns several months in advance of event dates and application deadlines. Six months is not too early.

Recommend centralized annual reporting on program uptake, teacher and studio demographics, registered subjects, and membership totals, for the board's convenience as well as promotional support.

Branding - Promotions benefit from brand consistency. If you're promoting at branch level, thank you for adhering to the ARMTA brand standard. Teal must feature somewhere on all material, virtual or tangible.

For AGENDA

A spreadsheet prepared by ARMTA Administrator indicates that membership rose steadily between 2011 and 2020 and then leveled out at about 485 between 2020 and 2025. (2026 numbers will be available after March 31.)

ARMTA runs several membership campaigns throughout the year. When choosing campaign platforms, it would be useful to understand how new members hear about ARMTA - conferences, social media, word of mouth etc.

For agenda:

- Add a survey to membership applications, to help ARMTA understand how membership applicants hear about ARMTA, their reasons for joining, etc. Suggest using questions from

the 2025 survey but allow the survey content to be changeable as necessary for ARMTA's information-gathering purposes.

- Add annual review of survey content every membership year, to publicity convenor job description, in consultation with other Convenors and ARMTA executive as appropriate
- Add responsibility for consolidation of acquired survey data into a management report, to ARMTA Administrator job description

See appendix: Summary of 2016 and 2025 member surveys

Prepared by Susan Henley

xvi. Recognition Fund

The current balance of the ARMTA Recognition Fund is \$31,311.47. The Rusconi Fund Donation in April 2025 was \$22,309.00. It is evident that the Edmonton Community Foundation invested the Rusconi money very well and it has been secure this past year as we have seen an increase this year. In May of 2024 we received \$20,312.00.

Just for review, this fund in its inception in 2008, was created with only the provincial biennial piano competition in mind. The ARMTA President at that time, Judith Ammann, worked to create a fund that would provide these awards. The vision of the Recognition Fund was presented to the Edmonton Community Foundation, and in 2012, the Edmonton Community Foundation chose the ARMTA Recognition Fund as the annual recipient of the Rusconi investment. The Rusconi investment is in memory of the late Ethel Rusconi (nee Weisbeck) a past ARMTA member from Medicine Hat. Since 2012, the fund's scope has broadened, and prizes and scholarships are presently awarded to students in all genres on music.

The ARMTA Recognition fund is held and managed in the CFMTA Trust Account, and Lois Kerr, the CFMTA Treasurer assists greatly with this fund. Periodically we ensure that the spreadsheets are accurate and that the totals are matching at each end. The balance given to you in this report is as of February 4, 2026.

Requests are summarized below:

Projects 2026-27	Requests	
Biennial Awards		
<u>ARMTA Multidiscipline Competition</u>	\$4,250.00*Total	\$2,125.00 annually
<u>Strings</u> Competition (2026?)	\$2,900.00 *Total	\$2,000 annually
CASSA (Calgary Arts Summer School) Scholarships		\$500

Provincial Awards to the Branches		\$6,400
<i>Calculated at \$850 each for Small Branches \$1,500 each for Calgary and Edmonton (Grande Prairie, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Red Deer)</i>		
Student Composer Competition Awards	\$900	
Bursaries (Needs Based)	\$12,000	
Newcomer Bursary	\$3,000	
ARMTA Pedagogy Scholarships	\$3,000	
Rotary Calgary Concerto Competition	\$2,000	
Contemporary Showcases (Calgary and Edmonton in 2024)	\$700	\$350 per showcase
Total - \$32,625.00		

In 2025, ARMTA has received \$22,309.00 from the Rusconi Fund, but our spending for 2025 to date is 32,330.00. In looking at our projected projects for 2026-27, we will be overspending by potentially \$10,000 or more, if the donation from the Rusconi Fund is approximately the same amount.

I would ask the Board to consider these questions before approving the above expenses:

- 1) What is our main focus? Our core activities?
- 2) Do you have a percentage to be set aside for competitions and education?
- 3) What is the threshold on the account, before we need to start cutting back? Would it be a balance of \$10,000 for example?

I would recommend the following:

- Take one year off funding non-ARMTA projects. I would suggest that we can no longer support the Calgary Rotary Concerto Competition and perhaps consider Contemporary Showcase and CASSA as well.
- Reduce the Pedagogy Scholarships to \$2000.00 (two \$1,000 scholarships)
- Combine the two Bursaries-still allowing for a newcomer Bursary as that requires a slightly different application. Allow for \$14,000 for Needs-Based Bursaries and Newcomer Bursaries. Bursary amounts will be smaller to accommodate the high number of requests.

This would reduce the over-spending by \$5,2000.00. In January of 2027 there would be an evaluation of the Recognition Fund donations as new initiatives come into place which will encourage more donations.

In making my recommendations for the 2026-27 year, I have considered what I believe to be the core projects of the Recognition Fund: The Piano, Voice, and String competitions, Branch awards, Student Composer Competition, Pedagogy Scholarships, and Bursaries.

Respectfully, *Lorrie Wittke*
ARMTA Recognition Fund Convenor.

xvii. Scholarship

xviii. Social Media

Reporting Period: 2025 Year

Date Submitted: Feb. 3, 2026

1. Overview

During this reporting period, I continued to manage and develop ARMTA's social media presence with the goal of increasing visibility, supporting member engagement, and promoting Association events, programs, and values. Efforts were focused on consistency, clarity of messaging, and alignment with ARMTA's professional identity.

2. Platforms Managed

- Facebook: private and public groups
- Instagram: ARMTA account, links in Bio, and Stories

(Content was coordinated to ensure cross-platform consistency while respecting the different audiences and affordances of each platform.)

3. Activities and Contributions

- Designing original content in Canva and summarizing ARMTA website content with ChatGPT to create brief, easily digestible social media posts.
- Planned and scheduled regular posts highlighting:
 - ARMTA events and workshops (i.e. Strings Masterclass)
 - Scholarship and awards recipients (i.e. Continuing Education)
 - Member successes and engagement posts (i.e. Canada Music Week)
 - Tempo 2025 content (i.e. article quotes and author highlights)
 - Seasonal celebrations and timely announcements (i.e. holiday wishes)
- Collaborated with Board members and convenors to gather accurate, timely content.
- Responded to messages and comments as appropriate.
- Coordinated both free, regular posts and paid content. Funded the Meta account and worked with administration for reimbursement.
- Maintained a professional, positive, and inclusive tone in all public-facing communication.

4. Outcomes and Impact

- Continued steady engagement across platforms, including likes, shares, and comments.
- Improved consistency of posting, supporting ARMTA's visibility and credibility.

- Enhanced awareness of ARMTA initiatives among members and the wider community. For example, a record number of entries in the Student Composer Competition.

5. Challenges

- Timely receipt of content and event details remains an ongoing challenge, occasionally limiting advance scheduling.
- Certain initiatives have not always provided event follow-up images or results, which curtails the 'end of the story'.

6. Recommendations & Next Steps

- Encourage Board members and committees to submit short, ready-to-post content, images, or videos.
- Encourage all members to *share* and engage with the ARMTA Provincial content.
- Convenors should collect as many images or videos as possible from events. Summarize results from competitions and scholarships (including winners' headshots).
- If there are unused funds from the 2025 social media budget, provide a one-time honorarium to Susan Henley for her Publicity work. The expert guidance she has provided with Creative Briefs and keen eye for branding detail has been integral to the success of the social media role.

7. Support Requested from the Board

- Continued collaboration and timely communication from convenors and Board members.
- Direction on priority campaigns to highlight in upcoming months.
- Continued funding to support advertising initiatives, especially for increased program applications, new members, and connecting students with teachers.

Budget Requests

Going forward, I envision there to be 4 main avenues which require additional social media advertising (beyond the typical reach of free posts).

- Competitions & Programs Advertising -- \$500
- Attracting New Members -- \$200
- Association Awareness -- \$100
- Connecting students with Teachers -- \$300
- Miscellaneous -- \$100

ARMTA Provincial currently has 745 followers on the public Facebook page, and 255 followers in the Instagram page.

The posts with real people doing real things are always the most impactful. For example, a recent quotation from president, Annette Bradley, has received over 2300 views and excerpt from a Tempo article by Kara Friesen received over 2400 views (both unpaid). A post regarding the "Benefits of Studying Music" received over 17,000 views (paid). Collaborating with other arts

organizations is how our content is viewed the most widely and I will continue reaching out where possible.

If there are items you would like to see featured on our social media accounts, please send them directly to me via DM, or to karen@gerelusmusic.com. I want the world to know how hard you all work and feature your efforts. Thank you for all that you do!

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Gerelus, PhD
Social Media Convenor, ARMTA

xix. Sponsorship

In January 2026, the Sponsorship letter was revamped to more closely reflect the benefits of sponsorship. We will continue to offer online recognition, we discontinued recognition in printed programs and added that sponsors will have their names and logos (if applicable) on a display board at our events.

In summary, all donors will receive benefits depending on their level of donation. They all receive appropriately placed ads for their donations in Tempo Magazine. Depending on their level, some will be listed on our website with a link to the sponsor's website and they will be advertised at Alberta Band Summit and ARMTA Sponsored events on a display board. Letters to last year's sponsors and to new sponsors will be sent out in February. We expect to have the same or more sponsors as last year.

We value our sponsors so please consider using them for any of your business needs.

Respectfully submitted
Rosemarie Horne

xx. Strings Competition

Committee Members: Nathene Arthur (Chair), Chrysanthema Nikol (Strings Convenor), Marlaine Osgood (ARMTA)

1. Report. Our mission is to support the study of stringed instruments for the students of Alberta, with a focus on those taught by our own ARMTA teachers, and with openness to other teachers who may wish to join us. By holding workshops and competitions, we can show that ARMTA is more than piano teachers, that we support our ARMTA strings teachers' efforts, and that we can help prepare students to go further into higher level competitions and events. As most of our ARMTA teachers teach in the levels from beginner up to Grade 7-8, we are focusing on those levels for our events and competitions.

2. ARMTA Strings Events. There were two "ARMTA Strings Masterclass and Lecture" events held in Calgary (October 2025) and Edmonton (November 2025) which our ARMTA students entered by video submissions and then the in-person events. We had excellent video round and in person Judges. These Masterclasses were worthwhile, and we received many thanks from the students. We will continue to engage our ARMTA strings teachers and encourage more participation in future events.

3. Junior Strings Competition. In 2025 our ARMTA Strings Committee had eleven zoom meetings, and we have been preparing for our Fall 2026 “Junior Strings Competition” in Red Deer this coming November. This competition will be open to students in two categories: Junior A (18 & under) and Junior B (14 & under). We will use a similar approach, repertoire guidelines, and registration fees as in our highly successful ARMTA 2024 Strings Competition. We are actively looking into venues and judges. We also have prepared, and sent, our budget request to the ARMTA Recognition Fund for the prize amounts. In the future, we will alternate years from the ARMTA Multi-Discipline Competition and move to Fall 2027, 2029 etc., like the ARMTA Junior Voice Competition Committee plans to do.

4. Budget Proposal.

ARMTA 2026 PROVINCIAL STRINGS COMPETITION

Details: two categories: Junior A (18 & under) and Junior B (14 & under)

INCOME

- 1 ARMTA Provincial \$2,500
 - 2 Student Entry Fees (\$30/entry) estimating 15 students \$450
- Total = \$2,950

EXPENSES

- 1 Venue \$600
 - 2 First Round Video Judges. (\$30/entry) \$450
 - 3 Final Round In person Judge \$1,000 (\$450/day + travel/hotel)
 - 4 Honorariums for three Convenors \$600 (to help with travel/meals/hotel)
 - 5 Supplies \$50
 - 6 Piano Tuning (if needed) \$200
- Total = \$2,900

PRIZES - from the ARMTA Recognition Fund - \$2,900

Junior A Category - ages 18 & under - \$1,600

- Violin 1st Place \$500
- Violin 2nd Place \$300
- Cello 1st Place \$500
- Cello 2nd Place \$300

Junior B Category - ages 14 & under - \$1,300

- Violin 1st Place \$400
- Violin 2nd Place \$250
- Cello 1st Place \$400
- Cello 2nd Place \$250

5. Publicity. We look forward to working with ARMTA Provincial Social Media, Website and Publicity for our competitions and events.

Thank you,
Nathene Arthur
 ARMTA Strings Committee Chair
 January 25, 2026

xxi. Student Composer Competition

- Jesse Plessis (composer, pianist, and teacher from Montreal) has been confirmed as the adjudicator for this year's competition.
- Updates have been made to the Composer Competition web page on ARMTA's website and registration is now open.
- Advertising is now underway for the competition.

Respectfully submitted,

Danae Turgeon, ARMTA Student Composer Convenor 2026

xxii. Tempo Content

The creative brief for this role has been completed - thank you to Susan Henley for developing this. Recruitment for original articles and authors will start shortly and I will also coordinate with them as well. I look forward to developing Tempo 2026. Statistics about readership from our members were shared in regards to my previous question - thank you Susan Henley. She said: "The short answer is 30% of members through newsletters, plus up to 25% more members who requested print copies, plus an unknown number of members who may have clicked on tempo links from within the members' area on the ARMTA website. This is a significant increase in uptake over past years, possibly due to the superior content and layout of Tempo this year, supported by promotion through social media and through print copies made available for the ABA conference and elsewhere."

Submitted by *Rose He*

xxiii. Tempo Layout and Design

Report from September 2025

This year, thanks to having the position of Content Convenor filled by someone with the proactive skills to solicit and collect articles so successfully meant the magazine had to grow in size by 30%. Admittedly some of this growth could have been reduced with editorial choices, which I will get into, but the real cause of the growth is a successful Content Convenor. If the Content Convenor continues to be this successful, this bodes very well for the future of the publication.

Editorial decisions that also added to the growth of publication size;

- slightly larger font size
- 35 out of 36 pages have at least one image or graphic, and feature articles got feature images (all still within the branding requirements of using stock photographs)
- interactivity, where possible, was included, including QR codes to Student Compositions.

However, growth comes with its own challenges. There are two main challenges that come from this; financial, quality of content, and the development of standards.

Financially, a larger publication costs more to print. With fewer and fewer people seeking printed versions of the publication, it would be wise for the organization to fully examine how the Tempo Magazine fits the mandate of ARMTA, and whether or not a physical version is critical to fulfilling that mandate. In my opinion, it does, because there is a great deal of knowledge contained within. In honesty, there should also be access to printed copies of the publication at public events, such as at conferences, larger-scale performances, and other opportunities to engage with non-members. Additional exposure for our sponsors may assist in arguing any additional future expenses.

Additionally, this publication came at a more significant cost of my personal time than ever before. I spent nearly twice the time I had in previous years to edit the publication, and so any additional compensation you consider for the Editor should also be financially supported by how well the publication fits the mandate of ARMTA. I of course would rather not recommend myself out of a job, but the organization must be steadfast in their resolve for the additional expense, or else provide a different direction for how to proceed in the future.

The biggest challenge that occurred earlier in the process of making the publication was with regards to advertising. Our advertising guidelines are non-existent. An advertiser does not know with certainty the publication requirements our magazine has and must therefore assume appropriate dimensions. Much like our organization branding, we need to develop guidelines that will enable our sponsors to achieve the look they want while also adhering to the layout constraints of the publication. That takes time to develop, time that the Sponsorship Convenor required of me at a time of year when time was at an absolute premium for me. Considering the necessity for quality assurance in our accepted content, perhaps those details could also be included in that final guidelines document, including an appropriate method of citation.

These are my recommendations for consideration going forward. I would be happy to join a meeting of the Board when the topic of Tempo Magazine is on the agenda, however I also am happy to proceed in future years with any direction given by the Board as to how to proceed with the magazine.

Report from September 2025
Joel Windsor

xxiv. Voice Competition

xxv. Webmaster

1. ARMTA Provincial Website & Maintenance:

We use WordPress for our content management system. The last redesign was in Spring 2022. Our current theme is called "Sinatra". All 6 branch websites are using the same theme. Images & layouts are different to give each branch their own identity while still maintaining a unified look across the province using our new logo & brand colours.

I continue to offer website technical assistance to all branches when requested.

I have been making changes & updates to the events & information posted on our website as instructed by the administrator & event coordinators.

Spent time fixing an email deliverability problem where some Shaw/Rogers customers were not receiving emails from ARMTA emails.

2. Public Member Profiles:

Add your photo & update your profile information for our Find A Teacher directory.

Send your logo or photo to web@armta.ca to be added beside your name on our Find A Teacher directory page. We currently have 24 member photos or logos in our directory.

Members are encouraged to add information (text and/or photos) into their member profiles in the Find a Teacher directory so they will be found in more searches on our website & on Google search. Click the "Profile" tab when logged into "Manage Account" section of the member's area. (You can edit the Profile Gallery & Profile Description)

3. Local Branches Hosted under ARMTA Provincial (shared hosting):

ARMTA Provincial can host unlimited websites on their account for no additional hosting fees. The website's branch is only responsible for their domain name registration fee (usually \$20-\$30 per year).

Local branches hosted under ARMTA's account:

Edmonton Branch www.armtaedmonton.ab.ca

Lethbridge Branch www.lrmta.com

Calgary Branch www.armta-calgary.com

Red Deer Branch

<http://www.armtareddeer.ca>

Local branches hosted under ARMTA's account with a sub-domain:

No name registration fee required for a sub-domain (yournamehere.armta.ca)

Grande Prairie grandeprairie.armta.ca

Medicine Hat Branches

medicinehat.armta.ca

4. Member Custom Websites Hosted under ARMTA Provincial (shared hosting):

Members have access to our shared hosting for a \$50 per year fee so they can have a custom website. The first year is \$25. (Details in Feb 12/27, 2022 minutes). This brings in some income to help cover the cost of our provincial hosting expense (\$503.58/year from 2025-27) Members would be responsible for their domain name registration fee (usually \$15-\$30 per year).

We are currently hosting 11 member's websites who are all expected to pay \$50 with April 2026 renewal (\$550 total). 5 additional members expressed interest after an information email was sent in early January. The ones who go ahead will pay \$25 for this 2026-27 year.

I help the members get their websites up & running and am available for assistance in future editing as requested.

Full details are located in the member's area of our website: armta.ca/member-websites

5. Google Workspace (formerly G Suite) for nonprofits:

We have a Google Workspace since Feb 2020. Contact me if you want access to use Workspace features.

Currently Edmonton Branch is using it for a shared Google drive for their Executive members. Executive members can easily organize, access & edit agendas/minutes & other documents.

6. Website traffic stats:

View our website traffic stats anytime by visiting the link below (also found in the member's only area of our website). Select the date range you would like to view.

Sessions: the number of times someone visited our site.

Total users: the number of users visiting our site 1 or more times.

Engaged sessions: sessions that last at least 10 seconds or include 2 or more pageviews.

Scroll down the top pages section to see the top 500 pages viewed.

<https://datastudio.google.com/reporting/f28b09fa-6dd0-4b63-b9a1-872907942adb/page/S33B>

Here are the traffic stats for: Feb 1, 2025 – Jan 31, 2026



Submitted by *Carolyn Garritano*

ARMTA Provincial Database Report – FEBRUARY 2026

Since April 2015 we have been using a membership management system for storing our provincial member's information called Membership Works (MWs):

<https://membershipworks.com>

This is a subscription-based service that is \$1140 USD / year (\$95 per month) starting January 2024.

I have been making changes & updates to the membership registration form, events & other areas of our Membership Works system as instructed by the administrator & event coordinators.

I help members with their accounts & member profiles as requested.

I have assisted the administrator with customization & issues that arise with our Membership Works account.

Reminder: only members with a current VS check will be included in our public Find-a-Teacher directory page.

Provincial Executive Label:

Reminder: Members who are part of the provincial executive have had a label added to their account so they can access the “Exec only” tab in the member’s area of our website. If you are on the provincial executive, you will automatically have access when you login to the member’s area with your usual email & password.

Admin Access:

Any branch can have a Branch Admin set up to gain access to their Branch member’s information & set up events for registration & online payment. Calgary & Edmonton branches are making use of this.

If your branch would like admin access contact web@armta.ca.

Event List:

Any branch can post their events in Membership Works so members can register online (offline & online payment options available). Membership Works keeps track of registrations & payments received. You can put the registration form right on your own branch website.

Currently Provincial, Edmonton & Calgary make use of this feature regularly. Lethbridge does occasionally & Red Deer has used this feature in the past.

Contact web@armta.ca if you would like to start using this feature.

Submitted by *Carolyn Garritano*

xxvi. Wellness

xxvii. Young Artist Tour

3. f) BRANCH REPORTS

i. Calgary

Events and meaningful benefits for members and their students:

1. ARCHERFEST 2025 in collaboration with Canadian Music Centre, November 2025, to

celebrate the life and works of Violet Archer.

2. By the time of this Provincial meeting, our workshop with pedagogue and composer John Burge (February 22) will have already occurred; we look forward to this informative and lively session.

3. Student Recitals and Adult Student Recitals continue to be held throughout the city.

4. Our two large celebratory events early in the year that acknowledge some of our outstanding students: ARMTA Calgary Recital & Awards (ACRA, January) and Outstanding Student Recital (OSR, February).

5. Music Marathon – our annual fundraiser, is scheduled for May 30; an excellent opportunity for our students to participate in a casual performance atmosphere, a great chance for ARMTA to be seen and heard in the community.

6. Student competitions continue to be an attractive draw for our students; these include Video Creations, Story Writing, Poster Creations and the Dual Excellence Teenage Superstar Awards. We are fortunate to have an energetic team in the Endowment Society steering these opportunities for our students.

7. The *Impromptu* newsletter (March and September editions) showcases the achievements of our students who have placed in our competitions, and offers meaningful content submitted by our members.

8. The Calgary Branch has decided to offer new members a full waive of Branch fees for their first year, in the hopes to attract more new members.

9. We continue to offer financial support to our members to attend conferences.

10. Rotary C3 (Calgary Concerto Competition) happens March 13-15 and is a brilliant showcase of the talent in our young students. Barbara Robertson is now the official ARMTA Calgary Branch representative on the RC3 Board. We are again very grateful to the Provincial Board for generously contributing to the winners' prizes.

Respectfully submitted, February 2, 2026

Sandra Joy Friesen and Barbara Robertson

ii. Edmonton

Our branch has continued with bimonthly executive meetings via Zoom with one in-person meeting every three months.

The events highlighting student participation are the recital program, which is offered three times per year, the Clementi project in conjunction with EYO (Edmonton Youth Orchestra) and the Northern Alberta Concerto Competition (NACC).

In November, work was completed on the contract and services required by Winspear/ESO towards the November 23 date for the NACC final round. We continue to provide a strong scholarship program at the Awards Ceremony, held on December 7, 2024. The December 7th recital was well attended (est.130 audience members), with brilliant performances from musicians.

Our continuing education program continues to provide interesting and topical events. Most seminars are via Zoom, which allows ARMTA members (and the public) across the province to participate.

In late January the Jeremy Siskind Blues Improvisation Workshop (Online) was attended by ARMTA members from branches across the province. Thank you to Jan Janowsky for organizing this successful event!

In February, we are looking forward to our in-person Membership Appreciation event. Our Pedagogy group is beginning again in February. The NACC final concert will be held in late winter, and in mid March we will have the performance-based Clementi Project.

Wendy Nieuwenhuis was able to attend the Music Conference co-hosted by ARMTA, AMEF, and the Alberta Band Association in Red Deer on October 24-25. It was a great chance to meet other board/ARMTA members and experience some engaging sessions as part of the conference. The AGM was held during this weekend and it was another great chance to see members who were not attending the conference but did attend the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Branch Representatives, *Wendy Nieuwenhuis and Susan Henley*

iii. Grande Prairie

Dates: September 1, 2025 to February 6, 2026

The Grande Prairie branch has been holding regular meetings on the first Thursday of each month, at a local coffee shop.

We held a mixer event on October 19th, 2025, at the residence of Beth Peters (president of the Grande Prairie branch). Members were encouraged to invite a local music teacher to the event who was not a member of the group. Eight people attended the event, with three teachers attending that were not members. The event included enjoyable conversation, and refreshments. At the end of the event two draws were made for door prizes. Non-members were given contact information in order to join the group if they wished. We plan to continue to hold this event annually to invite local teachers to join and build community amongst the teachers in the Grande Prairie area.

We held a voice and choral workshop on November 15, 2025. Our Clinician was John Wiebe, D.Mus., ARCT. He is Director of Music, Director of Choral Activities -University of Alberta, Augustana Campus and VP Development - Choir Alberta. We started with a morning lecture, Musicking Together On Purpose, exploring the importance of informal, group or shared music-making and how it can help build a foundation of joy in our musical lives. This was followed by a break for lunch and opportunities to chat. Our afternoon masterclass had 3 local conductors and choirs. Dr. Wiebe worked with the conductors. We had lots of community participation and good responses from the participants. We are thankful to the ARMTA continuing education fund for sponsoring this workshop.

Our branch formed a committee to review submissions of student names from branch member teachers for dispersing the ARMTA Recognition fund branch awards. Four students were chosen and names will be published when they have received their awards.

Submitted by *Beth Peters* Grande Prairie branch president

iv. Lethbridge

Events:

The Lethbridge Branch's Canada Music Week Recital took place on Saturday, November 22nd, 2025. Eighteen students performed a wonderful variety of Canadian music and special guest pianist Brad Parker played composer Lavinia Kell Parker's composition for prepared piano, *Frozen Fractals*. Both Brad and Lavinia are members of the Lethbridge Branch. At the conclusion of the recital, awards totalling nearly \$2500 were presented to 45 students for the highest marks in practical and theory exams during the November 2024-October 2025 examination sessions. We were deeply honoured to recognize the memory of long-time member Doreen Laing with piano awards for Levels 1, 2, and 3. The ARMTA Recognition Fund Student Awards were given to 6 students with the highest marks in both a practical and theory exam. As part of CFMTA's Branching Out Initiative, *Music Making a Difference*, we collected 80 pounds of food at the recital for the Lethbridge Interfaith Food Bank worth over \$350 including the silver collection of \$65.55 contributed at the door.

Branch member, Betty Jo Radley hosted an Adult Christmas Get-together and a Christmas Student Recital in the Community Room at Casa on December 20th, both of which were much appreciated and well-attended.

Upcoming:

The University of Lethbridge Conservatory of Music in collaboration with the Lethbridge Branch will host the annual *Keys to Piano* workshop on March 6-7, 2026, which is open to all students and piano teachers in Lethbridge or area. On Saturday, students will have the opportunity to perform for clinicians Kathy Dornian and Dr. Christopher Kayler, participate in break-out sessions such as snare drumming, digital music production, and anatomy for pianists, and attend a lunch-time performance featuring the piano. On Friday evening, Kathy Dornian will conduct a live RCM mock exam, giving attendees a rare behind-the-scenes look at how exams are conducted and graded in real time.

The Lethbridge and District Music and Speech Arts Festival dates are April 20th - May 1st, 2026. A festival preparation recital with a senior guest performer, a final Branch student recital, an adult get-together and a community recital for all students of all teachers in our area, are planned for the spring to complete the teaching year.

In addition, a series of 3 free workshop sessions with Dr. Merlin Thompson of Calgary will take place between March and June 2026. The first session will be in person in Lethbridge and the final 2 will be presented online. The Lethbridge Branch is very grateful to ARMTA for funds for student awards and continuing education.

Submitted by *Christine Rogers*, Lethbridge Branch President

v. Medicine Hat

vi. Red Deer

ARMTA Red Deer has met twice since September 2025. Both meetings were well attended.

We have decided to postpone our Pop, Rock, Jazz Recital to 2027, giving parents and students a break from this particular format. We did decide, however, that students should still have the opportunity to perform at a recital, apart from the competitive Red Deer Performing Arts Festival.

A few of our members floated the idea of giving back to parents somehow, as they do so much for their children, and for our music studios. And so, the idea of a Mothers' Day Spring Recital emerged.

ARMTA will not charge an entrance fee to this event. We will take donations, as parents see fit. All participating students will be given a rose to present to their mothers after they have performed. The event will be held in a relaxed atmosphere, where tea/coffee and cake will be served to parents as they listen to the performances.

At our meeting in January 2026, Angela Siemens presented her "Keeping the Spark Alive" workshop to the members in attendance. It was very well received and members left with many interesting ideas for use in their own studios.

Our AGM is set for June 5.

Submitted by *Estelle Carpenter, President ARMTA Red Deer*